

**Topps**  
COMICS

**2**

**OF 3**

\$2.50 US

\$3.40 CANADA

**ROY  
THOMAS**

**CLAUDE  
ST. AUBIN**

**ALLEN  
NUNIS**

# THE FRANKENSTEIN DRACULA WAR™



**BLOOD OF INNOCENCE!**

In 1796, while Napoleon Bonaparte's troops ride roughshod over France's foes, *Dracula* gains vampiric sway over a selfish young woman named *Mirka*, the daughter of Count Bogdan, in order to increase his earthly power by marriage.

Realizing belatedly that *Dracula* is one of the undead, Bogdan leads a handful of soldiers into his castle, intending to slay the vampire. But Bogdan's men are instead slain by *Dracula*, and *Dracula* has Bogdan's newly-undead daughter slay her father.

Meanwhile, having come from the Arctic into the Transylvanian Alps in search of a way to make himself a mate, the *Monster* created by Victor Frankenstein has been befriended by a girl named *Irena*. When French troops ransack her village, *Irena* convinces him to defend it against the brutish soldier called "*Monsieur Massacre*." But the *Monster* must give way when their leader, the magician *Count St. Germain*, holds the girl hostage.

*St. Germain*, who claims to have been kept alive for centuries by a mystic elixir, has come to obtain the one ingredient he still needs in order for the liquid to grant eternal life: the undead heart of a vampire.

Concerned for *Irena*, the *Monster* swiftly travels by foot to the wild Carpathian mountains... and into Castle *Dracula*.

He is not unexpected...

# THE FRANKENSTEIN DRACULA WAR

FRANKENSTEIN CREATED BY MARY SHELLEY

DRACULA CREATED BY BRAM STOKER

ROY THOMAS

WRITER

CLAUDE ST. AUBIN

PENCILER

ALLEN NUNIS

INKER

JOHN COSTANZA

LETTERER

CARL GAFFORD

COLORIST

LEN BROWN

EDITOR

## TOPPS COMICS

JIM SALICRUP

ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER / EDITOR IN CHIEF

DWIGHT JON ZIMMERMAN

EXECUTIVE EDITOR

RENÉE WITTERSTAETTER

EDITOR

CARL GAFFORD

EDITORIAL PRODUCTION MANAGER

DON ALAN ZAKRZEWSKI

DESIGN DIRECTOR

GARY GERANI

WEST COAST EDITOR

MICHAEL MIKALIAN

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

IRA FRIEDMAN

PUBLISHER

LEN BROWN

CREATIVE DIRECTOR

CHARLES S. NOVINSKIE

SALES AND PROMOTIONS MANAGER

STACY KIMMEL

ADVERTISING DESIGN COORDINATOR

LUZ LA SALLE

DISTRIBUTOR LIAISON

SANDY FIUMANO

ELENA NOA

PUBLISHING ASSISTANTS

MADA DESIGN, INC.

GRAPHIC PRODUCTION

ARTHUR T. SHORIN

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

JOHN J. LANGDON

PRESIDENT

FOR ADVERTISING INFORMATION CONTACT BOB

ROSEN AT KO&R

850 SEVENTH AVE. SUITE 903, NEW YORK, NY 10019, PH:

(212) 399-9500, FX: (212) 265-0986

THE FRANKENSTEIN/DRACULA WAR™ Volume 1, Number 2, March, 1995.  
Published by TOPPS COMICS, INC., One Whitehall Street, New York, NY 10004-2109.  
Copyright © 1995 The Topps Company, Inc. All rights reserved. The party characters  
and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. THE FRANKENSTEIN  
DRACULA WAR is a trademark of The Topps Company, Inc. Topps Comics, Inc. is a  
wholly-owned subsidiary of The Topps Company, Inc. First Printing. Printed in Canada.

Scanned by DEEM



TRANSYLVANIA, 1796

THE EIGHT-FOOT MONSTER  
CREATED BY THE LATE VICTOR  
FRANKENSTEIN HAS  
STRIDDEN BOLDLY INTO THE  
CASTLE OF COUNT DRACULA...

I HAVE BEEN  
AWAITING YOUR  
ARRIVAL, MY GRAVE-  
SPAWNED FRIEND.

## PART 2: THE GRAND ALLIANCE

IF SO, VAMPIRE--  
THEN YOU KNOW WHY  
I HAVE COME!

AYE!  
TO RIP OUT  
MY HEART--

-- SO IT CAN  
PROVIDE THAT UPSTART  
CHARLATAN COUNT  
SAINT-GERMAIN  
WITH ETERNAL  
LIFE!

WRITER: ROY THOMAS  
CO-PLOTTER: JEAN-MARC LOFFICIER  
PENCILER: CLAUDE ST. AUBIN  
INKER: ALLEN NUNIS  
LETTERER: JOHN COSTANZA  
COLORIST: CARL GAFFORD  
EDITOR: LEN BROWN

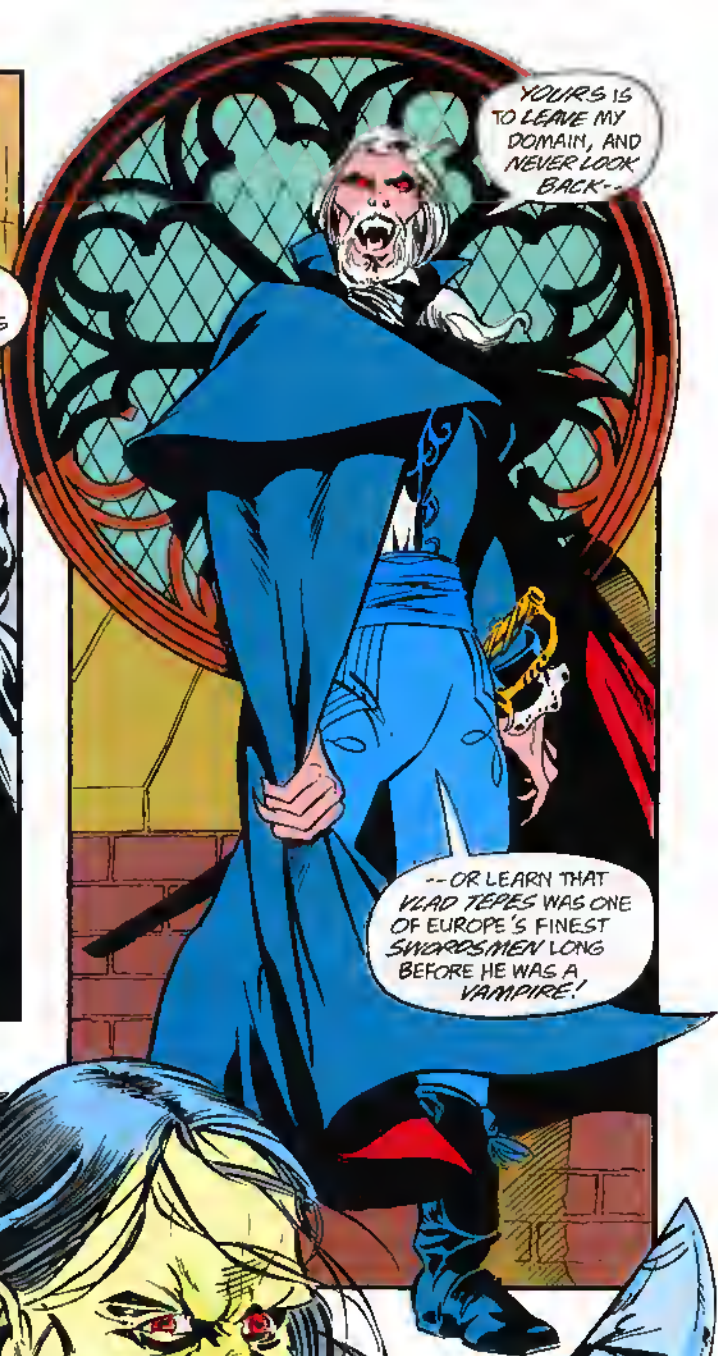




THEN YOU ALSO KNOW  
I'VE NO CHOICE IN  
THE MATTER.

I DO WHAT I MUST  
DO-- FOR THE LIFE OF  
A WOMAN WHO MEANS  
MUCH TO ME.

EACH OF  
US HAS A CHOICE,  
WRETCH--EVEN  
YOU.



YOURS IS  
TO LEAVE MY  
DOMAIN, AND  
NEVER LOOK  
BACK--

--OR LEARN THAT  
VLAD TERES WAS ONE  
OF EUROPE'S FINEST  
SWORDSMEN LONG  
BEFORE HE WAS A  
VAMPIRE!

FOR THAT  
VERY REASON,  
COUNT, HE WHO  
SENT ME GAVE  
ME THIS--

--AND I'VE  
WELL LEARNED  
ITS USE UPON  
THE ROAD FROM  
AUSTRIA!

PREPARE  
TO MEET THE DEATH  
FROM WHICH THERE  
IS NO WAKING!











YOU ARE CLEARLY A NOVICE, MY FRIEND.

"OR, RATHER -- I AM AFTER HIS!"

STILL, YOU ARE FAST--

--AND YOUR REACH DOES BESTOW SOME ADVANTAGES.

BUT NOT QUITE ENOUGH!

YOUR SWORD-ARM-- STAYS MINE!

NOT SINCE MY BIRTH THAT DREARY NIGHT SEVEN YEARS AGO HAVE I MET ONE MY EQUAL IN STRENGTH!

EQUA...??

EQUAL, WRETCH?

I AM YOUR SUPERIOR!

EH? WHAT PALE, YELLOWISH EXCUSE FOR BLOOD IS THIS THAT COURSES THROUGH YOUR MONSTROUS VEINS?

YET IT'S NOT MY SWEENS THAT WILL BRING YOU DOWN--

--BUT MY BLADE!

IT FOULS MY SWORD-- YET STILL YOU STAND!





'TIS THE BLOOD MY CREATOR  
GAVE ME, VAMPIRE!

I DO NOT STEAL THE  
LIQUID OF LIFE FROM  
OTHERS IN THE DEAD  
OF NIGHT--

--EXCEPT  
THIS ONCE!

AND EVEN NOW--  
I MUST TAKE CARE  
THAT I DO NOT INJURE  
YOUR UNDEAD  
HEART!

FEAR NOT!  
YOU'LL NOT HARM  
ONE WHO CAN TURN  
HIS BODY, HEART  
AND ALL--

YOU'LL  
NOT ESCAPE  
ME!

NOT AS MAN--  
NOT AS MIST--  
NOT AS BAT-  
WINGED THING!

--INTO THE  
VAGARIES  
OF MIST!

I SHALL  
HAVE THAT FOR  
WHICH I CAME!



DO YOU TRULY  
THINK YOU CAN  
REACH ME--

--UP  
HERE?

THERE *MUST* BE  
A WAY TO REACH  
YOU.

PERHAPS--  
THROUGH *THIS*  
CHAMBER--!?

I THOUGHT  
YOU WOULD TAKE  
THAT ROUTE. AND  
SO I PREPARED  
YOU--

--A  
WELCOME!

NO--!

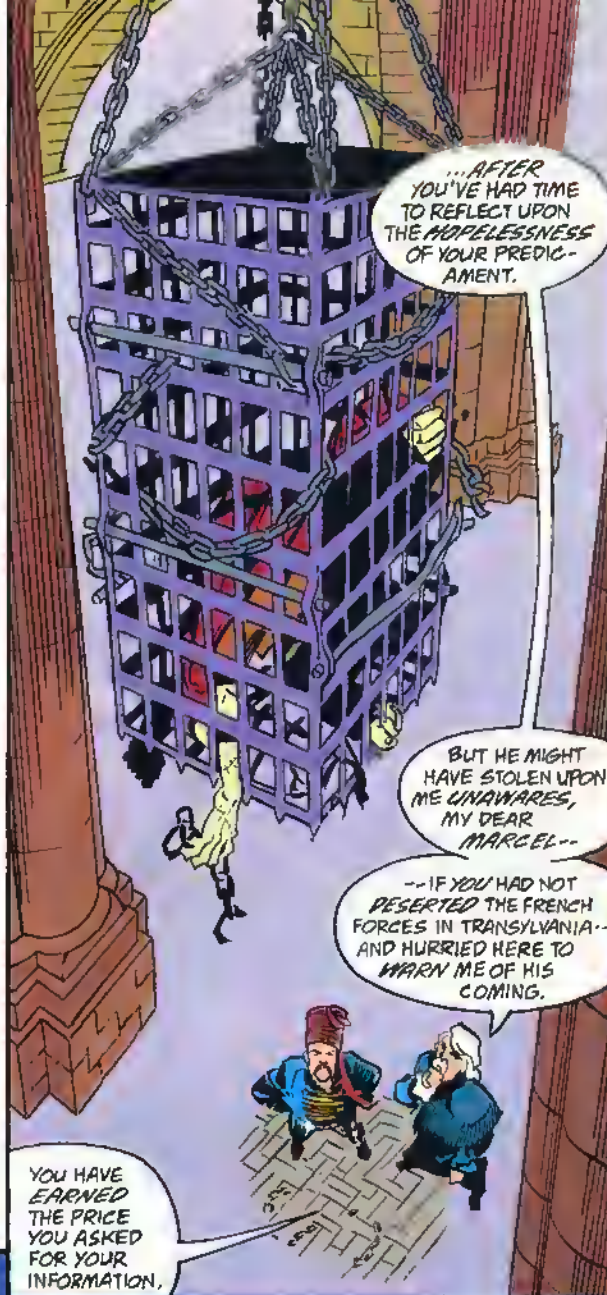
RAGE ALL YOU  
WISH, FIEND. THAT  
CAGE WILL HOLD  
YOU.

IT OCCURS TO  
ME THAT YOU MAY  
BE AS UNKILL-  
ABLE AS I AM.

PERHAPS  
WE'VE MORE IN  
COMMON THAN I  
FIRST THOUGHT.

WE MUST  
TALK.





...AFTER  
YOU'VE HAD TIME  
TO REFLECT UPON  
THE HOPELESSNESS  
OF YOUR PREDIC-  
AMENT.

BUT HE MIGHT  
HAVE STOLEN UPON  
ME UNAWARES,  
MY DEAR  
MARGEL--

--IF YOU HAD NOT  
DESERTED THE FRENCH  
FORCES IN TRANSYLVANIA--  
AND HURRIED HERE TO  
WARN ME OF HIS  
COMING.

YOU HAVE  
EARNED  
THE PRICE  
YOU ASKED  
FOR YOUR  
INFORMATION.



I DON'T BLAME YOU FOR  
BEING SKEPTICAL OF WHAT  
I TOLD YOU, MILORD-- UNTIL  
YOU ACTUALLY SAW THIS  
APPARITION.

YES.  
AND YET--



-- HE IS NOT ENTIRELY  
WITHOUT PRECEDENT.

YEARS AGO, I  
HEARD TALES OF A  
MONSTROUS GOLEM, IN  
PRAGUE -- FROM CERTAIN  
JEWS, BEFORE I PUT  
THEM TO THE STAKE.

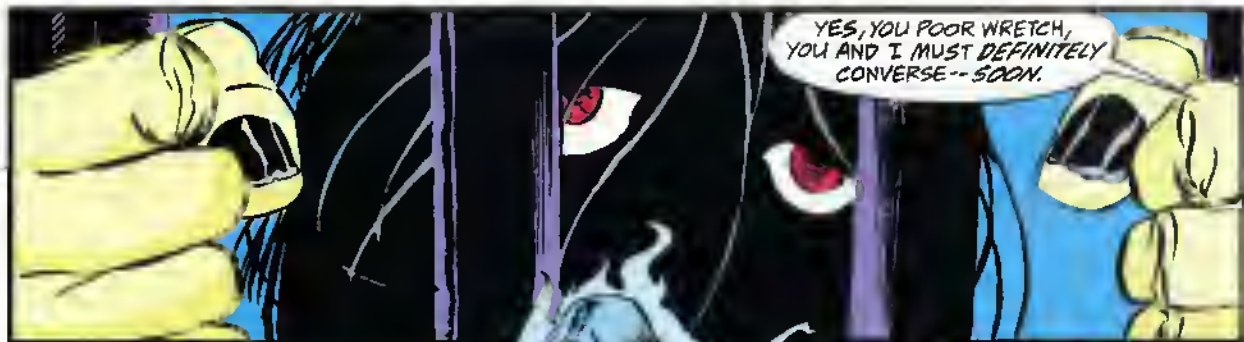


I EVEN SHARE A  
CERTAIN KINSHIP WITH  
THIS BRUTE WHICH, YOU  
SAY, WAS CREATED BY  
A SWISS-BORN MEDICAL  
STUDENT NAMED  
FRANKENSTEIN.

AFTER ALL,  
BOTH OF US  
WERE ONCE DEAD--  
THOUGH IN DIFFERING  
WAYS-- AND NOW, WE  
LIVE AGAIN.

IT MAY EVEN  
BE THAT HE IS  
IMMORTAL,  
AS I AM.





YES, YOU POOR WRETCH,  
YOU AND I MUST DEFINITELY  
CONVERSE-- SOON.



BUT FIRST, I  
MUST TEND TO A  
MORE PRESSING  
CONCERN:

THAT  
INTERLOPER  
COUNT SAINT-  
GERMAIN, WHO HAS  
DARED INVADE MY REALM  
AT THE HEAD OF FRENCH  
TROOPS.

BUT, MONSIEUR--  
YOU WILL NEED A HUMAN  
HEART TO BAIT  
THE TRAP!

MY POWER OVER  
VAPORS ALLOWS ME  
TO CONGEAL INTO AN  
APPROXIMATE SEM-  
BLANCE OF OUR GAR-  
GANTUAN GUEST--

-- JUST LONG ENOUGH,  
I TRUST, TO DECEIVE THAT  
INFAMOUS ALCHEMIST.

OR WILL YOU  
HOPE THE HEART OF  
A GOAT WILL SUFFICE,  
IN FAILING LIGHT?



OH NO,  
GOOD  
MARCEL...

AAGGGGG





I MUCH  
PREFER THE  
GENUINE  
ARTICLE!

COUNT  
SAINT-  
GERMAIN!

YOU CAN  
SEE I HAVE  
DRACULA'S  
HEART!

COME  
CLAIM YOUR  
IMMORTALITY!



IT CAN'T BE  
THIS EASY TO SLAY  
A VAMPIRE--  
ESPECIALLY BY  
NIGHT!

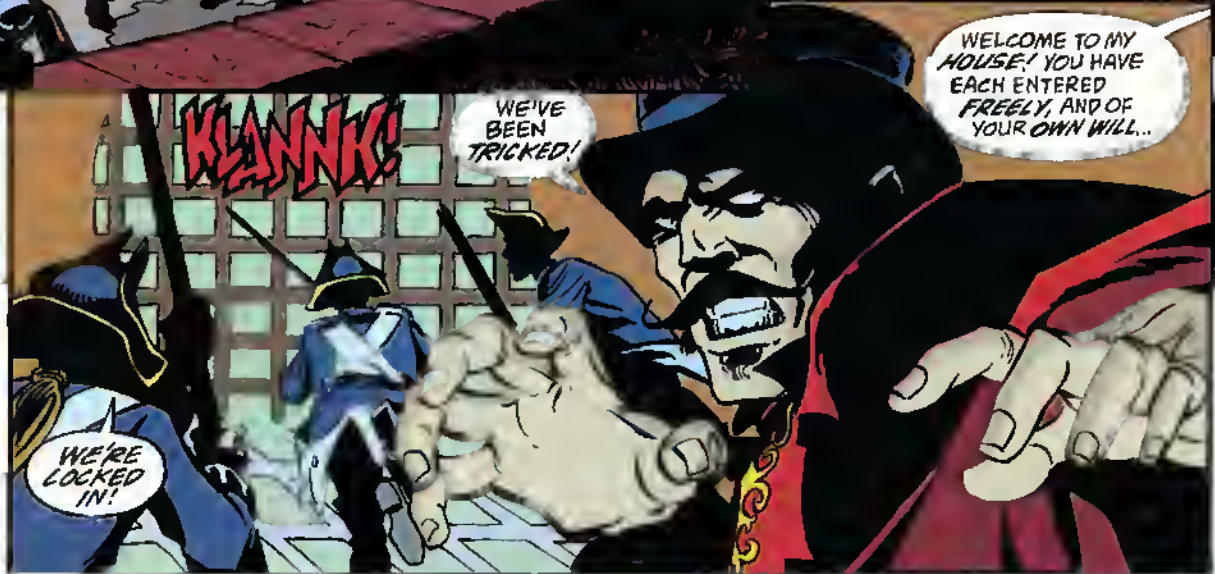
AND  
THAT SCREAM  
WE HEARD--!?

HIS PAIN--  
WHEN HIS EVIL  
HEART WAS  
PULLED FROM  
HIS BODY.



MONSTER!  
BRING THE HEART  
DOWN HERE  
TO ME!

IN A  
MOMENT,  
MY DEAR  
SIR...



KLANK!

WE'VE  
BEEN  
TRICKED!

WELCOME TO MY  
HOUSE! YOU HAVE  
EACH ENTERED  
FREELY, AND OF  
YOUR OWN WILL...

WE'RE  
LOCKED  
IN!



...BUT IT IS NOT  
MY WILL THAT YOU  
SHOULD EVER  
LEAVE!

DRACULA!

YOU HAVE  
TRAPPED  
US--BUT  
YOU'VE NOT  
DEFEATED  
US!

I'VE JOURNEYED  
A THOUSAND MILES  
FOR YOUR HEART--  
AND BY GOD, I'LL  
HAVE IT!

WRRROOOOOO

SURROUND  
HIM! YOU'VE  
NOTHING TO  
FEAR FROM  
ONE MAN!

BUT  
DRACULA  
IS NOT  
A MAN--

WHAT  
THE HELL  
IS THAT?

--NOR IS  
HE WITHOUT  
FRIENDS!

WHAT  
MUSIC THEY  
MAKE!

AAHHH

LOOK AT  
THEM--THE  
CHILDREN  
OF THE  
NIGHT!

RRR

RRRR





SO!

NOW, IT IS JUST YOU AND I, DRACULA--A BATTLE OF EQUALS.

YOU DARE TO PLACE YOURSELF ON A PLANE WITH ME!?

YOU ARE RIGHT, MONSIEUR.

WHY SHOULD I ASSUME YOU ARE MY EQUAL--

--WHEN THE MAGIC SPELLS I'VE CAST ABOUT MYSELF BURN YOU LIKE SILVER OR GARLIC OR A CRUCIFIX!

HNNNNH

YOU ARE LESS THAN FOUR HUNDRED YEARS OLD-- I SOMEWHAT OLDER THAN THAT.

I HAVE FOUGHT AND, YES, FED MY LIFE FORCES UPON YOUR ILK IN EGYPT AND INDIA.

TO ME, PRINCE OF VAMPIRES, YOU ARE BUT--

AARRRRGGG

---A NOVICE!





GODD! IN  
YOUR HELPLESS  
AGONY, YOU'VE  
REGAINED YOUR  
HUMAN  
FORM!

SO MUCH  
THE EASIER  
FOR MY SILVER  
DAGGER,  
THEN--



--TO LOCATE YOUR  
UNDEAD HEART!

HGNNNN



LET  
HIM  
GO!

YOU!

UNHAND ME,  
YOU REPULSIVE  
CADAVER, OR  
I SHALL--





I SHALL,  
INDEED--

--UNHAND  
YOU!

YOU--  
SAVED  
ME--!?



YOU SAID WE HAVE MUCH  
IN COMMON, VAMPIRE-- AND  
UPON REFLECTION, I  
AGREED!

FAR MORE THAN  
I HAVE WITH THIS--  
HUMAN!

YOU-- HAVE  
DOOMED YOUR LADY  
LOVE, MONSTER-- FOR  
MY MAN, "MONSIEUR  
MASSACRE"-- WILL  
SLAY HER NOW!

BUT-- YOU  
HAVE ALSO  
DOOMED--

--YOUR-  
SELVES!

WORDS  
STREAM FROM  
SAINT-GERMAIN'S  
FROTHED LIPS--  
WORDS IN A TONGUE  
UNKNOWN FOR  
THOUSANDS OF  
YEARS--

-- AND THE CALL  
IS ANSWERED!

**KKRAAAAAKKK**

FROM WHAT HELL THESE TENDRILS  
HAVE SPRUNG, ITS TWO-FOLD  
PREY NEITHER KNOW NOR CARE...





YET, AS THE MONSTER'S HERCULEAN STRENGTH RIPS AND TEARS AT FLESH-THAT-IS-NOT-FLESH--



--DRACULA'S EYES ARE SET ON A GLEAMING PRIZE.



THE VERY THOUGHT OF SILVER IS LOATHSOME TO THE VAMPIRE...



ITS TOUCH WILL BE PAINFUL BEYOND BEARING.



YET, AS SAINT-GERMAIN'S ULLULATING CHANT--



--RISES IN DEADLY CRESCENDO--



--BEAR IT HE DOES--



GURRGCK

--TO LETHAL EFFECT!





WHEN THE MAGICIAN'S VOICE IS STILLED--

--THE WRITHING TENDRILS FOLLOW IT INTO THAT OBLIVION RESERVED FOR THINGS THAT NO LONGER EXIST.



I...UNDERESTIMATED YOU, MY FRIEND. I SEE BY YOUR HANDS THAT YOU BATTERED YOUR WAY OUT OF MY ENCLOSURE.

I DO NOT LIKE BEING CAGED.

NOW, YOU WILL HELP ME RESCUE A GIRL FROM THE FRENCH OUTSIDE.

I WOULD, AND GLADLY..



HELP ME!

-- BUT I THINK THAT PERHAPS IT WILL NOT BE NECESSARY.



GILES DE LA CROIX NAMED HIMSELF "MONSIEUR MASSACRE."



BUT, IN THIS MOMENT, AS HE BEHOLDS THE WOMAN HE PURSUES FLANKED BY HORRORS OUT OF LEGEND--



--HE KNOWS HE HAS PURSUED HER-- TOO FAR.





IN DAYS TO COME,  
THE ROTTING, IMPAIRED  
FORMS OF GILES DE  
LA CROIX AND COUNT  
SAINT-GERMAIN  
REPLACE THAT OF  
THE LATE DUKE  
BOGVAR--

--AS MUTE  
WELCOMERS TO  
CASTLE DRACULA.

DO YOU FIND MY  
LIBRARY OF INTEREST,  
MY FRIEND?

I HAVE READ THREE BOOKS  
IN MY SHORT LIFE-- BUT THESE  
SEEM NOT TO BE IN THE SAME  
TONGUE-- WHICH I  
BELIEVE IS CALLED  
ENGLISH.

BUT TELL ME OF  
THE WORLD-- FOR I  
HAVE TRAVELED SO  
LITTLE SINCE MY--  
RE-AWAKENING.

I FEAR I KNOW  
LITTLE OF EITHER  
THE ENGLISH OR  
THEIR LANGUAGE.

I HAVE SEEN  
STRANGE SIGHTS  
SINCE I CAME SOUTH  
FROM THE POLAR  
LANDS.

MEN HAVE LEARNED  
TO FLY, IN BALLOONS  
FILLED WITH HEATED  
AIR...

ARMIES  
ARE EVERYWHERE  
ON THE MARCH...

CANNONS ROAR LIKE  
RAGING LIONS OVER MUCH  
OF EUROPE...



YOUR WORDS  
STIR ME, FOR I AM,  
AFTER ALL, A *VOYVODE*--  
A *WARLORD*-- A  
DESCENDENT OF  
ATILLA.

I HAVE SPENT  
CENTURIES WITHIN  
THESE WALLS. YET,  
WHEN I LIVED, I RANGED  
TO GALLI POLI, EVEN  
CONSTANTINOPLE.

PERHAPS, ONE  
DAY--IN ANOTHER  
HUNDRED YEARS,  
OR EVEN  
LESS.

THERE IS ONE BOOK  
HERE I WOULD LIKE YOU  
TO TRANSLATE IN PART  
FOR ME, IF YOU WILL.

IT SEEMS TO DEAL  
WITH ALCHEMY, SUCH  
AS MY CREATOR  
ONCE STUDIED...



I HOPE ONE DAY TO *DUPLICATE*  
HIS RESEARCH, AND MAKE MYSELF  
THE *MATE* WHICH HE DENIED ME.

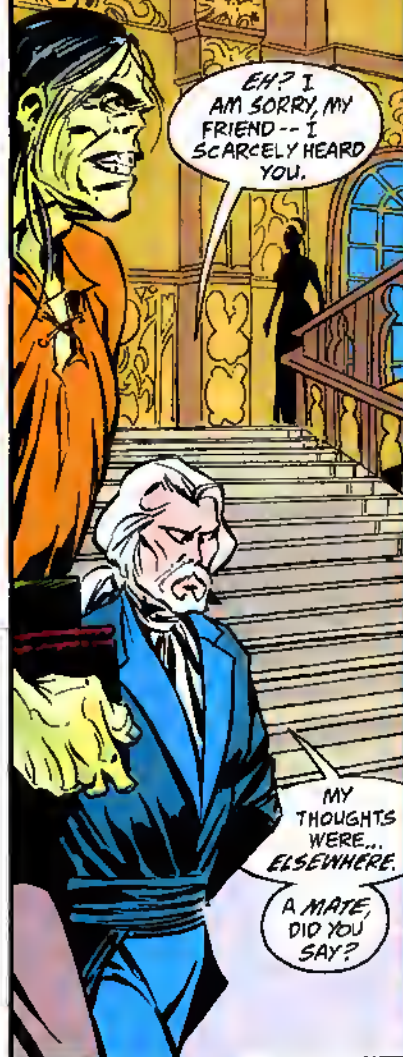
YES. YOU HAVE THE WOMAN *MIRKA*,  
THERE-- WHO CAME TO YOU AFTER  
YOU SLEW HER FATHER, *DUKE*  
*BOGDAN*.

TRUE. I HAVE GIVEN  
HER THE SAME KIND OF  
LIFE WHICH  
I KNOW.

...THOUGH I  
SUPPOSE YOU WOULD  
PREFER A *MATE*  
WHO'D NOT GROW  
OLD AND DIE...

...AS YOUR  
*PEASANT*  
*WENCH*  
WILL,  
SOMEDAY.

EH? I  
AM SORRY, MY  
FRIEND-- I  
SCARCELY HEARD  
YOU.

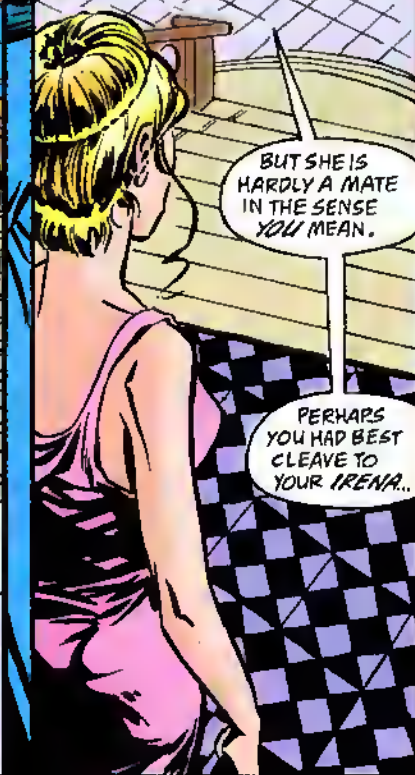


MY  
THOUGHTS  
WERE...  
ELSEWHERE.

A *MATE*,  
DID YOU  
SAY?

BUT SHE IS  
HARDLY A *MATE*  
IN THE SENSE  
YOU MEAN.

PERHAPS  
YOU HAD BEST  
CLEAVE TO  
YOUR *IRENA*...





VICTOR FRANKENSTEIN'S CREATION  
DOES NOT AGE.

SINCE HIS MAKER'S DEMISE  
TWO YEARS AGO, HE HAS THOUGHT  
LITTLE ABOUT DEATH.

BUT NOW, DRACULA'S  
WORDS FORCE HIM TO  
TAKE A NEW LOOK AT  
IRENA.

HOW LONG WILL THEY  
HAVE TOGETHER?

A YEAR? TEN  
YEARS? FIFTY?  
DOES IT MATTER?

HE WILL ENDURE--  
BUT SHE COULD FALL  
PREY AT ANY TIME TO  
AN ACCIDENT... A  
DISEASE... A BULLET.

PERHAPS SHE CAN-  
NOT LOVE HIM, AS  
HE WOULD HAVE A  
TRUE MATE LOVE  
HIM...

BUT SHE IS HIS...  
COMPANION.

HE IS A MAN-MADE  
THING... SHE, A SHUNNED  
OUTCAST BECAUSE SHE  
POISONED HER CRUEL  
FAMILY.

TOGETHER, HE  
MUSES, THEY  
WILL FACE THE  
WORLD...

...AND THE SUSPIC-  
IOUS DENIZENS OF  
THE NEARBY VILLAGE  
CAN DWELL IN THEIR  
OWN FLEETING HELLS,  
THEIR LIVES FLITTING  
BEFORE THEIR EYES  
LIKE DOOMED MAY-  
FLIES.

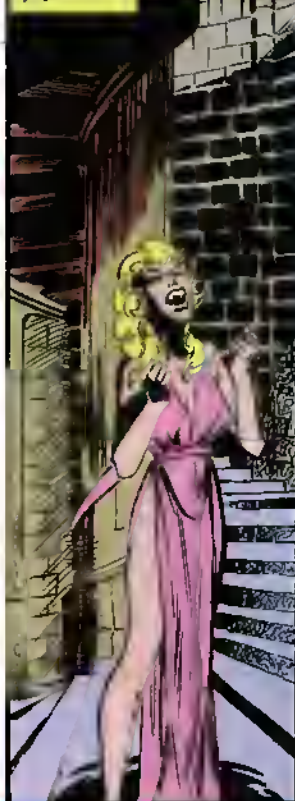
THE MONSTER LOOKS  
AT HIS OWN LIFE...  
AND PRONOUNCES  
IT GOOD.





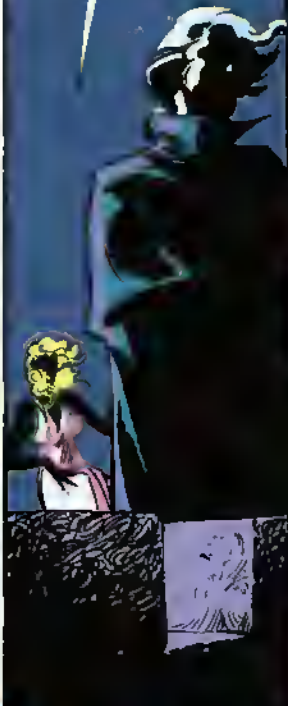


WHEN MIRKA WAS TRULY ALIVE, SHE WAS A SPOILED AND WILLFUL YOUNG NOBLE-WOMAN.

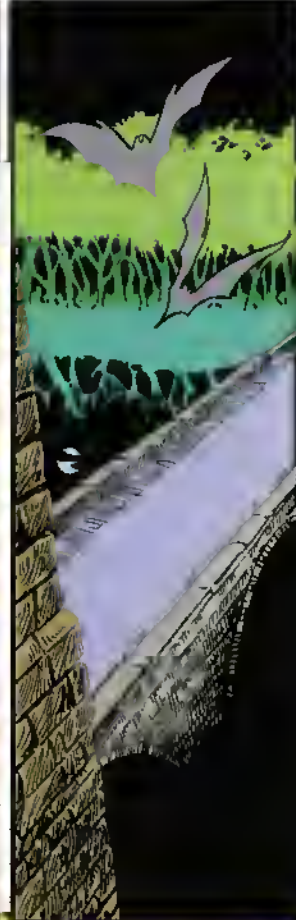
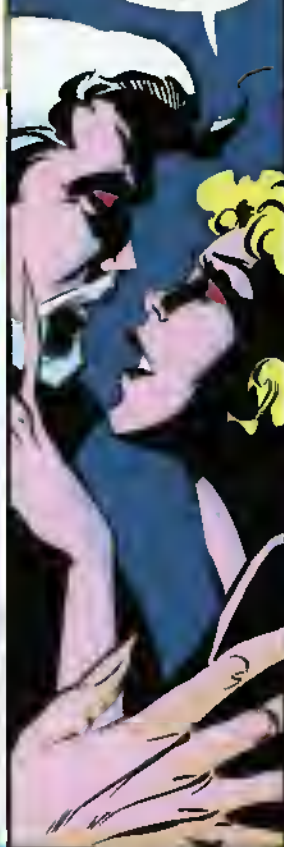


BECOMING A VAMPIRE HAS CHANGED HER LESS THAN SOME.

DRACULA...



MAY WE HUNT TOGETHER TONIGHT?



INDEPENDENT SINCE CHILDHOOD, IRENA CHOOSES TO SEEK GAME FOR HER OWN TABLE, IN THE CHILL EVENING AIR.



SO THIS IS WHY YOU LED ME IN THIS DIRECTION!

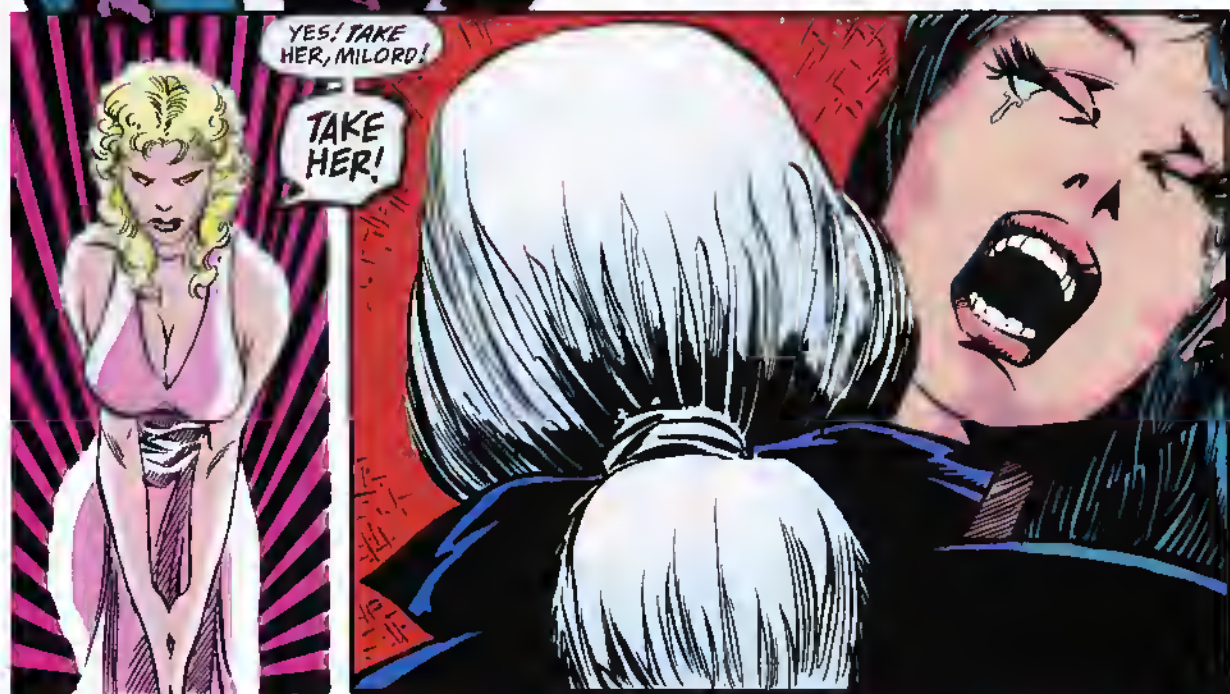


IS SHE NOT... FULL OF LIFE



YES.







THERE IS NO SIGN  
THAT IRENA HAS  
SLEPT IN HER BED

BUT IT IS MID-AFTERNOON  
BEFORE HER COMPANION  
OF MANY DAYLIGHT HOURS  
BECOMES SORELY CON-  
CERNED.

SINCE HIS ARRIVAL, HE HAS  
SKIRTED THE VILLAGE, WHOSE  
PEOPLE HAVE SEEN HIM ONLY  
FROM A DISTANCE...

...UNTIL NOW.

I MEAN NO  
ONE HARM.

I ONLY  
SEEK THE  
GIRL KNOWN  
AS IRENA.

TH-THEN LOOK IN THE  
DEEP WOODS-- FOR THE  
MEN HAVE SEEN STRANGE  
SIGHTS THERE--

--AND LET  
US BE!

YOU LIVE WITH HIM-- IN THE  
CASTLE-- AND WE'VE PRAYED  
GOD YOU WOULD BOTH  
REMAIN THERE!

THERE IS NO USE  
TRYING TO ANSWER  
THEIR FEARS.

ONLY ONE  
MATTERS  
TO HIM.

ONE WHO HAS MADE HIM FOR-  
GET EVEN HIS QUEST FOR  
FRANKENSTEIN'S NOTES,  
CONTAINING THE SECRET OF  
HOW TO CREATE ANOTHER OF  
HIS OWN KIND.

IT IS, INDEED, IN THE FOREST  
THAT HE FINDS HER...

AFTER  
NIGHTFALL.

IRENA...?

GO AWAY!

I DON'T  
WANT YOU TO  
SEE ME--

--LIKE  
THIS!











**DRACULAAAAAAA**



NEXT:  
**TRIUMPH  
and  
TRAGEDY**



# THE FRANKENSTEIN/DRACULA WAR CORRESPONDENCE

## QUESTION:

How do you put together a two-page letters section for the second issue of a series, when it has to be written weeks before the first issue has gone on sale?

## ANSWER:

There are at least three ways to handle it, actually:

(1) First, you can utilize art which otherwise would never be seen by most of the general public.

For instance, while editor in chief Jim Salicrup and editor Len Brown were busy cajoling artist Mike Mignola into doing the covers for *THE FRANKENSTEIN/DRACULA WAR*, they discovered they needed a picture drawn virtually overnight to accompany ads in the industry's trade magazines—an illustration that clearly said, "In this series, the Frankenstein Monster and Count Dracula are going to war—against each other!"

Since even the first of Mike's projected covers was still some weeks away from completion, Len phoned the series' penciler, Claude St. Aubin—and our Canadian cousin came through with the truly mind-boggling piece of art which (if the gods are kind) you can see on the page following this one.

It had always seemed a shame that only a relatively few people would see Claude's illo—and in black-and-white, yet—so it's been painstakingly colored by Carl Gafford and spotlighted this time around as a special treat.

With artwork like that, even Mike Mignola had a tough act to follow!

(And maybe this is a good place to mention that, if you dig Claude St. Aubin's artwork, you'll see more of it on prominent display in Topps Comics' *JURASSIC PARK Annual #1* which should be hitting your favorite comic shop this coming June. Don't miss it! As fans of *CADILLACS AND DINOSAURS* know, the lad can draw tyrannosaurs with the best of them!

(2) Okay, that gave us one-half of what we needed! So what's the second way you fill a letters section with no letters yet in sight?

Well, since *THE FRANKENSTEIN/DRACULA WAR* is a sequel of sorts to several Topps Comics limited series which have come before it (*BRAM STOKER'S DRACULA*; *DRACULA: VLAD THE IMPALER*; and *MARY SHELLEY'S FRANKENSTEIN*), even though two of those were film adaptations, Len trekked down to the office of Renée Witterstaetter, editor of the latter series; and she graciously turned over letters she'd received on its early issues. At the same time, Roy dug into his files for

a letter he received last autumn on VLAD.

(3) As for the third way to fill a letters section before the letters can start coming in—well, actually, you've just been looking at it, friend.

You write about how you put together a letters section before the letters can start coming in!

Now, on to those letters we do have:

Dear Editor:

Some thoughts on the first issue of your new mini-series adapting the movie, "Mary Shelley's Frankenstein."

I haven't had a chance to see the film itself yet... and considering how low a priority I place on going to the theatre these days, odds are Topps' mini-series will be finished and off the racks for some months before I rent it as a video. But if the work I see here is any indication, the movie is bound to become the new definitive version of this classic horror story.

Of course, with Roy Thomas at the helm, I'm hard-pressed to see how anything else but a lavish and faithful adaptation would be possible. Roy's previous adaptation work—on such disparate projects as Marvel's *Conan the Barbarian* and *Star Wars* to your own *BRAM STOKER'S DRACULA*—serves as evidence that he takes his role as adaptation-scripter very seriously, and that he makes a conscious effort to get the details right. Not just faithfully following the plot, but actually going as far as to use dialogue from the film itself... so that when you compare the movie to the comic, you can easily see how "true" an adaptation it is. I don't know if anyone has told Roy this previously, but I for one appreciate that kind of attention to detail.

Just as a side note, I notice that more and more of Roy's comics writing time these days is being spent at Topps, on projects like this and the always-delightful *CADILLACS AND DINOSAURS* string. Has he grown disenchanted with Marvel and DC of late? I'm hoping that's not the case; their super-heroes need people like him to write their adventures, with his love of continuity and attention to small details! Indeed, the next time DC decides it needs to straighten out its continuity (and such a time will come, never fear), I'd love to see Roy do the crossover series that fixes it!

But, getting back to *FRANKENSTEIN*: not only is Roy's adaptation of the film dead-on so far, but the artwork is also lush and breathtaking. This is easily the finest work I've ever seen from Rafael Kayanan and Rick Magyar. So, if I haven't







made it clear up to now, let me assure you that I'll be here for all four issues!

David Peattie  
4517 Birch Bark Rd.  
Concord, CA 94521

And hopefully for all three issues of **THE FRANKENSTEIN/DRACULA WAR**, David— since if you aren't, then you won't see your letter in print!

Neither we nor writer Roy Thomas wishes to comment on his work for other companies (hey, do they plug **CADILLACS AND DINOSAURS?**), but clearly he enjoys the offbeat assignments he's done for Topps.

Dear Roy,

I enjoyed your **DRACULA: VLAD THE IMPALER** series very much. I hope Topps lets you adapt some of it into a novel sometime. Dracula can use all the origins he can get!

However, the true story of Dracula is told in my recent book, *I Am Dracula*. After all, it's a first-person account: Dracula's life, death, and resurrection in his own words:

"I became a vampire for lies and for love. I remained one for revenge."

For the rest, you have to read the book.

C. Dean Anderson  
(Address Withheld)

We have, Dean and it's great. For the uninitiated, *I Am Dracula* was published in very late 1993 by Zebra Books, and we hope everyone interested can still find it.

Of course, we're a bit prejudiced in favor of our own version of Dracula's "life, death, and resurrection," as told in **DRACULA: VLAD THE IMPALER**. However, like you said, Dracula can always use another origin.

For those of you who might have missed the **VLAD** series, fear not! It returns next month as **THE DRACULA CHRONICLES**. Topps is re-presenting the original 3-issue series by Roy Thomas and Esteban Maroto with **NEW** covers by Joseph Linsner.

**POST SCRIPT:** If reader response to **THE FRANKENSTEIN/DRACULA WAR** is strong enough, we hope to do more series with the Frankenstein Monster, Count Dracula or maybe even both. So let us know what you think, okay? Send those secret lab notes to:

**THE FRANKENSTEIN/DRACULA WAR**  
c/o Topps Comics  
One Whitehall Street  
New York, NY  
10004-2109

Tell 'em Boris sent you!

**NEXT MONTH: TRIUMPH AND TRAGEDY!**

**THE EXCITING CONCLUSION OF**

# THE FRANKENSTEIN DRACULA WAR™

**#3** AT BETTER  
COMIC SHOPS  
EVERYWHERE

ROY THOMAS  
CLAUDE ST. AUBIN  
ARMANDO GIL

RESERVE YOUR  
COPY NOW!

ON SALE IN  
APRIL '95!

COVER BY  
MIKE MIGNOLA